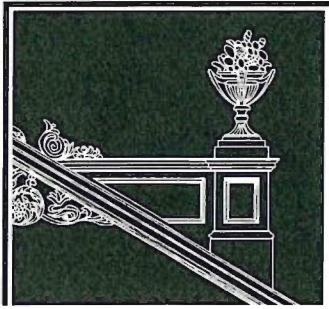


January 1996 • Number 8



# State Heritage

## NEWSLETTER

ISSUES AND INFORMATION ON HERITAGE CONSERVATION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA





# State Heritage

NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the State Heritage Branch  
of the Department of Environment and  
Natural Resources

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*Editor:* Francesca Stropin

*Advertising:*

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## Heritage Conservation Publications

During the 1990s the role of the State Heritage Branch has evolved in response to greater community awareness and involvement in the protection of heritage. Several noteworthy initiatives reflect these changes. This is exemplified by the expansion of the Heritage Advisory Service to provide professional advice at the local level. There are currently sixteen local councils who employ Heritage Advisers. This complements the new *Development Act 1993*, which has given local councils the provision to draw up their own local heritage lists, giving the community a greater say in the protection of heritage at the local level.

The State Heritage Branch has also commenced a series of publications concerning practical conservation issues. These publications are now undertaken in conjunction with the City of Adelaide. Two recent publications on *Rising Damp and Salt Attack* and *Fences in South Australia* have been produced and others covering the painting of old buildings, a revision of guidelines for maintenance, and practical issues regarding mortars, renders and sands are planned for 1996.

Restoration of old properties has become an increasingly popular activity. As more people become involved in the maintenance and preservation of historic places, it is important that accurate reference material be readily available. Home owners always have well intentioned approaches to the work they carry out on their homes, though sometimes they are not aware about the proper techniques and methods, which are often simple and economical. By following such guidelines

and adapting those principles to individual needs the building's heritage value can be enhanced, and expensive remedial work in the longer term avoided.

Another important step which the State Heritage Branch has recently taken is to foster a greater involvement with the business sector in the production of these publications. In this way the State Heritage Branch is able to consult with manufacturers, distributors and tradespeople to encourage the use of appropriate materials, products and skills regarding conservation practice.

The State Heritage Branch would like to gratefully acknowledge the following companies for their financial assistance for the Heritage Conservation Publications below:

**Rising Damp and Salt Attack:**

Stone Concepts  
Tech-Dry

**Fences in South Australia:**

Adelaide Design Centre  
Federation Trading  
Heritage Fences  
CSR Building Materials (formerly Monier  
PGH)  
Westside Manufacturing

**Painting of Older Buildings:**

Dulux  
Porter's Paints distributed by Anne  
Lockyer  
Solver

## SUBSTANTIAL DISCOUNT ON PAINTS



Owners of State and local heritage places are now entitled to significant discounts on paints from Dulux and Solver. This has been initiated for the benefit of heritage owners by the State Heritage Branch of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Part proceeds from sales made through this arrangement will go towards the protection of the State's built heritage. Discount Cards are included in this Newsletter.

Some conditions apply to these discounts.  
For further information phone: (08) 2049243

*Front Cover:*

Bridge at Eastern end of Botanic gardens – built  
1871 (Courtesy Botanic Gardens of Adelaide, SA)

# Dancker's General Store

M A C C L E S F I E L D

Dancker's General Store was established in 1851 by German emigrant Heinrich Dancker and operated for nearly 100 years before it became a garage in 1948. During the 1970s it was restored by dedicated owners to become an art gallery and in 1985 was converted to a residence.

Macclesfield was founded under a Special Survey. To enable settlement of un-surveyed parts of the young colony, any citizen who could afford the considerable fee of £4,000 could request a Special Survey. An area of 15,000 acres was covered in each Special Survey, of which the applicant was required to take up at least 4,000 acres. The remainder was available for public sale. Macclesfield was one of the last Special Surveys and was claimed by George Francis Davenport in 1840 on behalf of his father George Davenport, an Oxford banker, and partners Frederick Luck and Roger Cunliffe who financed the survey.

George Francis died in 1843 of typhoid and his brothers Samuel and Robert, who arrived in South Australia the same year, took over the administration of the survey. They were interested in attracting respectable emigrants who could afford to purchase their land and contribute to the culture of the community. One such person was Heinrich Dancker.

Dancker, born in 1819 in Schleswig - Holstein, left the troubled years of the 1848 revolutions in Europe and in 1851 bought land and buildings in Macclesfield. This included a cottage built in 1839 and part of the original Georgian style house which was built for the Davenports during the years 1844-48. Dancker wasted no time in building the addition in 1851 which was to be a village store. Dancker's General Store was successful in the early years of Macclesfield as the town was a thoroughfare for thousands of diggers heading to the Victorian goldfields and was also an important stop on the overland coach route from Adelaide to Melbourne.

After the 1850s storekeeping was never quite as profitable again but Dancker's Store continued to operate for the next one hundred years, surviving the establishment of the railway line through the southern hills area in 1884 which bypassed Macclesfield, and contributed to the town's isolation.

A newspaper correspondent noted in 1886:

*This place is not so prosperous as it once was. The overland mail coach from Melbourne is no longer heard drawing up in front of the hotel. The traffic of the*



Top: Davenport residence, Dancker Village Store, c.1867 Above: In 1977, restored.

*important town of Stratbalbyn no longer brings trade to Macclesfield. It is as if some Rip Van Winkle had gone to sleep in the neighbourhood.*

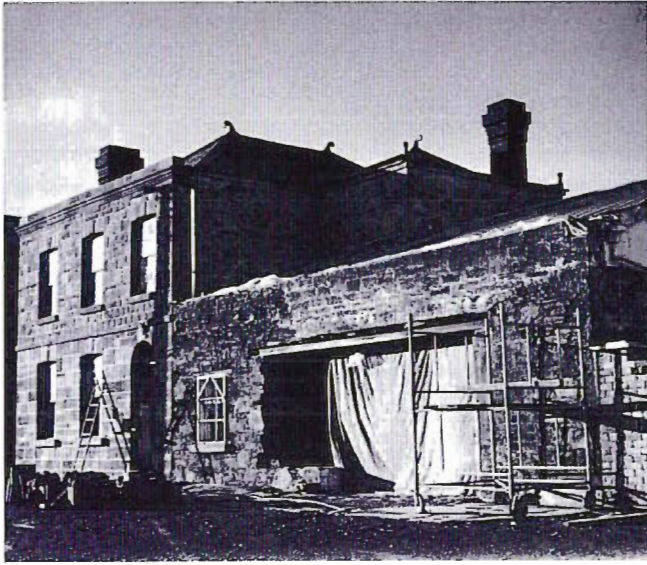
But isolation has its advantages. The town has changed very little from its early origins, so we in the twentieth century can appreciate many of its nineteenth century buildings, including Dancker's General Store.

After Heinrich Dancker died in 1910 his son William Dancker was the only family member to stay in Macclesfield. He maintained an interest in the store until his death in about 1943. The store was partly demolished in 1948 and converted to a garage, which remained until the property was bought in 1973 by the Haywards; a couple with a great deal of enthusiasm for heritage.

When Faye and Leslie Hayward took possession, it had lost much of its original character, and was in need of repair. The couple undertook to restore not only Dancker's General Store but other places in the main street of Macclesfield including the former post office and store next door. Through restoration of these buildings the Haywards improved the general streetscape. In a letter in 1979 Leslie wrote:

*At a time when scores of old buildings were being destroyed, my wife and I were determined that our property would be restored to a degree that would ensure its permanency. We have willingly undertaken the expense of many thousands of dollars to this end and the building's exterior is now a matter of comment and interest by many visitors to the area.*





In the process of restoration

During this period the Haywards made extensive renovations - so extensive that they had a stonemason live in for six months. The garage was converted to an art gallery and renamed the Greensleeves Art Gallery. The Haywards lived in this house until 1985 when it was sold to Mr Alexander Downer MP, who converted the gallery to a residence. In 1988 the house was sold to the current owners



Back garden

Dennis and Lois Burke, who have created a parklands setting in their backyard to complement its Georgian style.

The former General Store is not only an elegant building brought back to life by people dedicated to preserving the past, but it is also a testament to the history of Macclesfield.

#### References

J Faull & G Young, *People Places & Buildings*, South Australian Centre for Settlement Studies Incorporated, 1986.

J Faull, *Macclesfield Reflections along the Angas*, Lutheran Publishing House, 1980.

P Stark, *Meadows Heritage*, District Council of Meadows, 1983.

## NOTES ON HERITAGE CONSERVATION

# Repainting Old Front Doors

In early days the single most important item of a building was considered to be the front door and immense care would be taken to bring it to a glass like finish. Burning off of the existing paint would be carried out if deemed necessary and the door would be primed and under-coated and all imperfections filled, and sanded smooth.

In the repainting of front doors on old buildings today there are many considerations to be made:

#### Time

Time must be allowed to thoroughly investigate the state of the door and its history. While some original material may have already been lost in earlier repainting work, often there is a wealth of information in old paint layers.

- Cut a small wedge through the layers of paint to reveal their sequence (often paint/ dirt/ paint/ primer/ paint/ dirt/ paint/ primer etc.)
- Scrape and sand the wedge to expose the layers

- Dampen to remove dust and examine with a magnifying glass

- Colour match and record the layers

As a building material, timber allows itself to treatment of unsound sections while permitting the retention of original sound material.

- Do not remove sound original layers of paint- these should be retained as a future record.
- Establish whether more than one colour was used in one layer of paint and record.

#### Preparation

The durability of the paint system ultimately relies on the quality of the preparation of the surface. All blistering, flaking and chalking material should be removed. Care should be taken because some methods of paint removal make it difficult to retain important evidence of original finishes. Modern heat guns tend to remove all layers quickly, as does the practice of 'stripping' in baths. Damage to

the timber and joints is also a problem with these methods. Careful experimentation with paint removers, scraping and sanding will allow gentle progress. Fine detail which is often buried under many layers of paint can be reclaimed. The surface finally needs to be properly cleaned and sanded.

#### Selecting the paint system

Before preparation can continue the paint system must be chosen.

Old instructions regarding paint systems include such quaint and possibly dangerous snippets as: 'Dust off and brush a coat of white lead on mixed with about 1/3 linseed oil and 2/3 turpentine, adding a little Japan drier and enough lamp black to darken the coat to a slate colour' and '... Let this colour dry overnight. Then wipe it off gently with a cloth, or a handful of curled hair, horse hair, such as the automobile painter uses, to remove dust and dirt nibs'.

While these methods have obviously been successful in the past, continued



NOTES ON HERITAGE CONSERVATION – *Continued*

use is difficult without the expertise and knowledge of materials which was available at the time.

Selection of a modern paint system can also be daunting as there have been enormous advances in paint technology. However, it is generally agreed that for doors an enamel paint is best.

Although slower to dry than water based paint, enamel paint has the advantage of drying very hard and so the problem of 'sticking', which can occur between door and frame with water based paints, can be avoided. Enamel being harder, more effectively resists the normal knocks which are common around these areas. In drying slowly the paint is able to flow and give a better finish free of brushmarks. Important too is the gloss level possible with enamel paint. Gloss finish paint is recommended for exterior woodwork and a higher gloss level is attainable with enamel paint.

**Priming and Filling before the Undercoat**

An oil based primer is suitable for use under enamel paint and traditionally a linseed oil putty was used after this coat to fill any remaining imperfections before the undercoat was applied.

This sequence was followed because timber absorbs oil from linseed oil putty.

Although it will last approximately the same time as the life of the paint, linseed oil putty has the disadvantage of being very slow drying and when dry may shrink and be less stable than the acrylic emulsion based fillers now available. These acrylic based fillers, of which there are many proprietary brands, dry quickly, can be sanded back and may be used directly on to the timber, (ie before the primer).

Note: If using acrylic based fillers after the oil based primer the primer must be thoroughly dry.

- Select the type of filler best suited to the area of application. For example a gap sealant is suitable where there are two surfaces which are independent of each other and where there is a need to accommodate movement
- Small dents and holes can be filled with a fine surface filler whereas an epoxy resin may be used for larger holes such as in cases of rotted wood or where door handles have been changed. Instructions accompany products
- The undercoat is next and this may be tinted to be suitable for use under the final colour. For example if the door is to be a dark colour the undercoat may be darkened in anticipation
- Two or three coats of the final colour are applied taking care to attain a good even finish and allowing sufficient drying time

- Lightly sand down between coats. Sanding is necessary to promote adhesion and in the past pumice was used for this purpose

**Selection of Colour**

The colour of the front door depends of course on the general colour scheme and that in turn should be appropriate to the place. The general colour scheme should take into account the fabric, history and use of the building, including its context, the adjoining buildings and surrounding foliage. The placement and combination of colours in traditional schemes was designed to

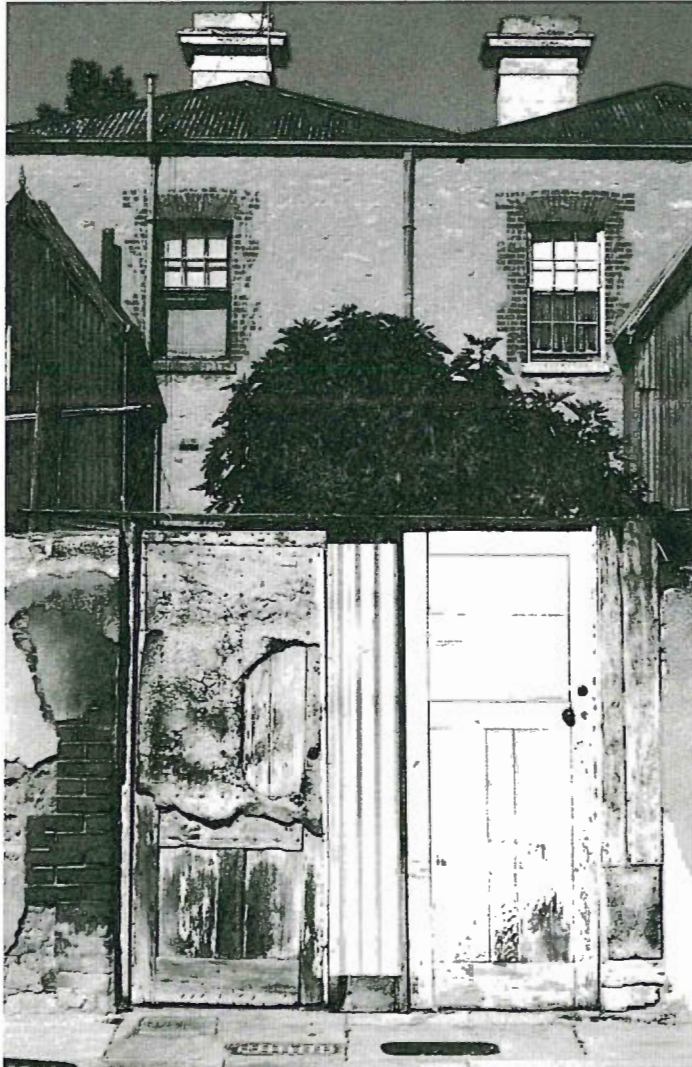
enhance and highlight the stylistic features of the building. An authentic traditional colour scheme conveys information about the tastes and fashions of earlier periods. A contemporary colour scheme may speak of today while still paying respect to an older building.

Of doors in England it has been said that *'while windows may or may not be white, doors should always be black'*. In Ireland there is a tradition of simple whitewashed buildings with brightly coloured front doors. In South Australia on the outside of buildings strong earthy hues of red, ochre, brown, cream and green were commonly used to express a character of stability and strength.

There is usually plenty of scope in the range of colours appropriate to any style to cater for the owners preferences. In the application common mistakes usually involve highlighting too many things in contrasting colours, such as small mouldings. 'Gilding the lily' can detract and the practice is best avoided.

Repainting old doors following the correct procedures

and working thoroughly can be very time consuming. However the work is of a manageable scale and is rewarding. The end result is a beautifully finished front door.

**Di Robson**

Colour Consultant  
Luxe Interior Design

**References:**

*Painting and Decorating working Methods*  
Theo Audel Publishers, New York 1922

Helen Lardner, *Caring for Historic Buildings*,  
Historic Buildings Council, Melbourne 1993

*Photo: Rear of Victorian Terrace houses, Jeffcott Street, North Adelaide.*  
*Photography: Sabine Jutta Scholz 1993*



# Recycling Our Built Heritage

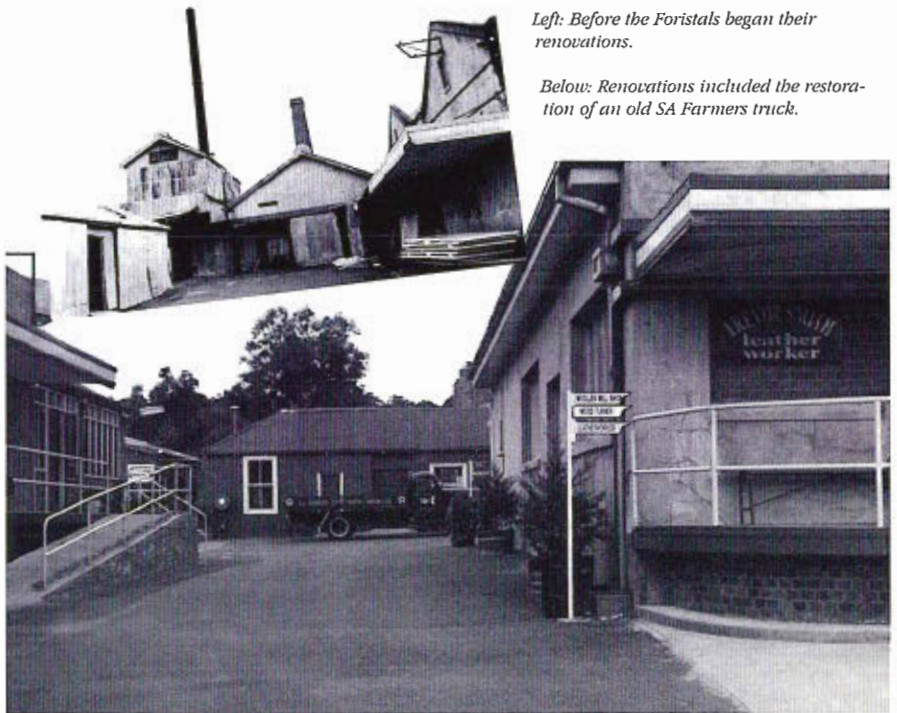
**The old Onkaparinga Cheese, Butter and Produce Factory at Woodside is an important historic site which has been turned into a successful chocolate factory by a commercial chef and a pre-school teacher.**

Dairy farming was an important industry during the nineteenth century and to process the milk from the many tenant farms, cheese and butter factories were built in various parts of the state. One of the first large scale domestic operations began in Mount Barker as early as 1842. Cheese factories were established in the South East at Kingsley, at Umpherston Caves and Tantanoola in 1885 and at Yahl in 1888. The Onkaparinga Cheese, Butter and Produce Factory was established by the South Australian Company at Woodside in 1889 to process the milk produced from its tenant farms along the Onkaparinga Valley.

By 1896 the Onkaparinga factory was one of forty-six butter and cheese factories in South Australia. In 1919 the factory was purchased by the South Australian Farmer's Cooperative Union. As well as sending thousands of gallons of milk daily to Adelaide it produced cheese, butter, margarine and smallgoods. Production of cheese and butter stopped in 1976 due to company rationalisation, and the site lay abandoned until 1990. This large scale complex was protected through heritage legislation in 1987 as a reminder of the dairy industry in South Australia. This is the background to an historic site, that Joy and Graeme Foristal have turned into a successful chocolate factory named Melba's Chocolate Factory.

When Joy and Graeme bought the property they were faced with a neglected complex of industrial buildings which ranged from small corrugated iron sheds to larger corrugated iron buildings with brick facades. The buildings were ramshackle and in need of repair, but with *'hard work and good friends'* the Foristals *'started at one end and finished at the other'* slowly fitting out the premises; by 1991 the chocolate factory was in operation. They are *'forever grateful to friends and family who came day after day to sweep, clean and paint so that fourteen years of abandon and neglect were washed away in just under six months'*.

While still maintaining the original fabric of the old factory Joy and Graeme adapted a significant part of the State's early history. They have leased other areas of the factory to various people including a



*Left: Before the Foristals began their renovations.*

*Below: Renovations included the restoration of an old SA Farmers truck.*

woodturner, leatherworker and a cheesemaker. A winemaker will soon join the complex, while bed and breakfast facilities are proposed in the former maintenance and boiler attendants' quarters. They have been innovative in their design for the factory creating not only commercial premises but also a space for their own residential quarters within the factory.

In keeping with the traditional feel of the factory the Foristals purchased 1940s machinery formerly used by old companies like MacRobertsons and Hoadleys, and have allowed visitors to see first hand the chocolate and confectionary making processes. Joy has two teaching degrees and these skills have been invaluable in setting up tours and coordinating larger school groups.

The team produce a wide variety of hand made chocolates as well as old favourites such as floral cashels and musk drops. Melba's Chocolate Factory has gained a State Tourism Award for Tourism Retailing in 1992, two Australia Day Achievement Awards and an Australia Day Business Council Award.

The Foristals' story is as interesting as the heritage building that they have converted. The couple started making chocolates in a small wash house behind their restaurant in Adelaide (Melba's Restaurant). In 1981 Graeme made an Easter Egg House display for the dining room and orders were soon placed for

them by customers coming to the restaurant (Graeme is a commercial chef who worked at Ayers House and the Old Mill Restaurant at Hahndorf).

For a while the Foristals were chocolate makers and restaurant owners until the demand for their chocolates was so great that they began working full-time in their chocolate factory about three years ago.

One of the fears that the Foristals had when acquiring a heritage listed property was that they would be restricted by heritage legislation. These fears were quickly allayed and a good working relationship has developed with the Onkaparinga Council and State Heritage.

The Foristals have been invited to Singapore to promote their chocolate products, and to promote the Adelaide Hills as a tourist destination. Despite

*Below: Production area within the renovated premises*





demand for their chocolates they are reluctant to modernise production and possibly lose the traditional feeling that they have created.

Not only have the couple made a successful commercial venture but in the process they have given a new life to a disused heritage building. Recycling heritage has not only brought benefits to the owners but to the people who work and live in the Woodside community through spin off trade to other businesses around the area. Industrial heritage is not always easy to re-use, and the community has benefited from the Foristals' hard work and imagination in the productive use of our built heritage.

#### References

G Young *et al*, *Onkaparinga Heritage Survey*, Department of Environment and Planning, 1983



SA Farmers Cooperative Union truck loaded with its butter, cheese and milk produce.

## State Heritage Register Update

The following places have been included in the State Heritage Register since July 1995.

#### **Glenside Hospital - former Operating Theatre, Elms Building and former P&O Wards**

Eastwood

#### **Hillcrest Hospital (former Administration Building, Mortuary and Superintendent's House)**

Gilles Plains

#### **Penneshaw Cemetery**

Penneshaw

#### **Freshfield House and Graves**

Antechamber Bay

#### **Threshing Floor**

American River

#### **Fish Canning Factory Site**

American River

#### **Rock Villa (Hog Bay River Station)**

Penneshaw

#### **House and Eucalyptus Oil Distillery Ruins**

Cygnets River

#### **Kilpatrick's Grave**

Kingscote

#### **Farm and Eucalyptus Oil Distillery Ruins**

Kingscote

#### **Tilka Huts Shed and Graves Site**

Kingscote

#### **Eucalyptus Plantation**

south of Kingscote

#### **Threshing Floor**

Kingscote

#### **Grassdale Homestead and Sealers Sites**

Kingscote

#### **former Stables and Coach-house**

Glencoe Homestead

Glencoe

#### **former Police Station Lock-up**

Millicent

#### **Bank SA**

Mount Barker

#### **former Mount Gambier Caledonian Hall**

Mount Barker

#### **Mount Gambier Post Office**

Mount Gambier

#### **Umpherston Cave**

Mount Gambier

#### **St Paul's Roman Catholic Church**

Presbytery

Mount Gambier

#### **Trustee Building**

Mount Gambier

#### **Engelbrecht Cave**

Mount Gambier

#### **Cave Gardens Reserve**

Mount Gambier

#### **Fire Station**

Mount Gambier

#### **former Limbert's Store and Residence**

Naracoorte

#### **Police Station complex**

North Adelaide

#### **All Saints Anglican Church**

Moonta

#### **Blackford - Dwelling and Fence**

Charleston

#### **former Blackford Stables**

Charleston

#### **Klopsch Farm Complex**

Lobethal

#### **Schuberts House**

Springhead

#### **Factory (former Duco Plant)**

Port Adelaide

#### **Post Office**

Port Pirie

#### **Koonalda Homestead Complex**

Nullarbor Plain

#### **Daisy Bates' Campsite**

Ooldea

#### **Klopsch Farm Complex, Lobethal**

This complex of buildings was built between 1864 and 1903. The complex includes a settler's cottage, the main house, an above ground stone cellar partly built into the hillside, a barn and various sheds. Klopsch Farm was entered in the State Heritage Register as it reveals the layout of a German farm in the mid nineteenth century, and shows traditional methods of German construction. Although not all buildings are original, the layout of the farm has changed very little since the turn of the century.





# Maritime Heritage Trails in South Australia



Above: Paddlesteamers and barges near Morgan c.1915

South Australia has a rich heritage associated with the sea and its rivers. All of the initial exploration, settlement and commerce by Europeans in South Australia relied on ships, and for many years after 1836 all the transport of people and cargo—intrastate, interstate and overseas was carried out using ships.

The Maritime Archaeology Section of the State Heritage Branch has documented 702 shipwrecks remaining in South Australia. They are a testament to the State's dependency on shipping. Many of these shipwrecks have been included in five maritime heritage trails which assist people to find and view shipwrecks, many of which need to be accessed by snorkel or scuba diving. They also provide historical information to the non-diving public through signs, brochures and booklets.

The maritime heritage trails so far established in South Australia are:

- **Adelaide's Underwater Heritage Trail**

Includes four shipwrecks located off metropolitan Adelaide and in Gulf St.Vincent

- **Wardang Island Maritime Heritage Trail**

Includes eight shipwrecks located around Wardang Island which is out from Port Victoria, Spencer Gulf – a waterproof booklet containing plans of the shipwrecks to help divers view the remains has been published

- **Kangaroo Island Maritime Heritage Trail**

Combines general historical information on Kangaroo Island's 62 shipwrecks and specific information on the more significant sites

- **Investigator Strait Maritime Heritage Trail**

Combines general historical information on the 27 shipwrecks located off the bottom of Yorke Peninsula and specific information on the more significant sites

- **The River Boat Trail**

Consists of historical and site information of the 61 shipwrecks, 16 surviving historic boats and 89 associated land sites located in the South Australian section of the River Murray

As well as convey information, the trails also encourage people to care for shipwrecks and explain how this is currently being carried out.

**Bill Jeffery**

Senior Maritime Archaeologist  
State Heritage Branch

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## Heritage in the News

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### New Senior Heritage Officer

Brian Samuels joined the State Heritage Branch in August after a long career with the History Trust of South Australia. He replaces Peter Bell, who left the Branch in 1994. Beginning as the Trust's Information Officer in 1981, Brian served in various capacities in the Trust's head office and was most recently Director of the State History Centre at Old Parliament House. One of his last achievements there was to help steer the Centre into its new home in Edmund Wright House, one of Adelaide's most notable heritage buildings, following the Government's decision to convert Old Parliament House to parliamentary offices and committee rooms.

Brian also has a very strong background in the voluntary history movement, having helped found the Historical Society of South Australia in 1974 and serving as Honorary Historian to the Port Adelaide Historical Society from 1973-94.

### State History Centre

The future of Edmund Wright House was secured in July when it was occupied by the State History Centre. The catalyst for one of the State's major heritage battles in 1971, when it was under threat of demolition; the building's future had been uncertain following the relocation of Births, Deaths and Marriages in early June.

The State History Centre's new contact number is 226 8555  
fax: 226 8559



# New Conservation Park

## IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S FAR NORTH

Sixteen square kilometres 1000 km north of Adelaide, which incorporates important mound springs, is in the process of being relinquished from lessees S Kidman & Co pastoral lease, and reserved under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act*.

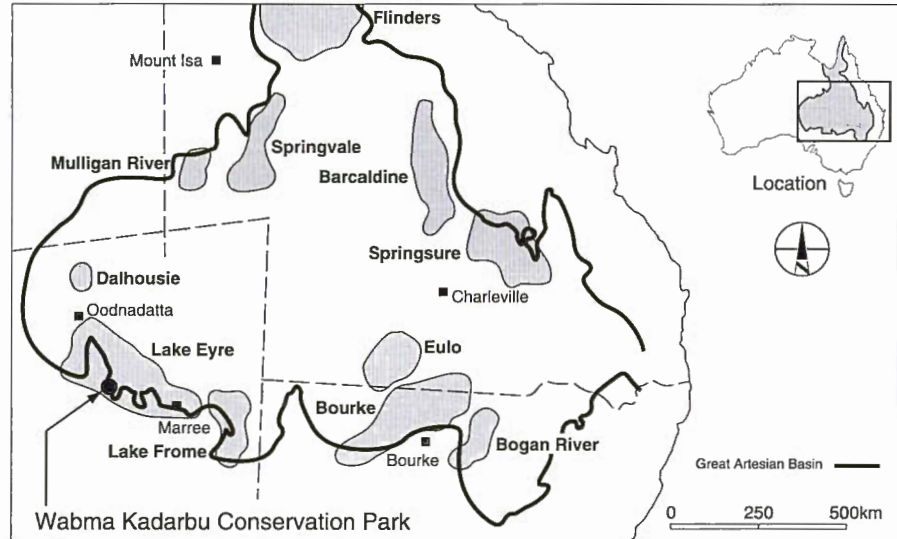
Mound springs are natural outlets for the underground waters of the Great Artesian Basin and many hundreds occur around the margins of the Basin in Queensland, north western New South Wales and northern South Australia.

They have long been recognised as significant for their links with Aboriginal heritage and early European exploration, and the range of important, and in many cases, unique flora and fauna they support. Having evolved within a desert environment the wetlands of the mound springs have a unique and nationally important range of native plants and animals.

Human populations have also been supported by the springs for thousands of years. Before European settlement they were an unfailing drought refuge for local Aboriginal people, and in the area being conserved the mound springs feature prominently in the rituals and mythology of the Arabana people, among others, who have traditionally lived in this area.

From the mid nineteenth century the springs were vital to early European exploration including the establishment of the Great Northern (Ghan) Railway. Evidence of this railway line can be seen at Coward Springs where Station buildings, having survived the effects of time since the 1880s, are being restored.

The new park includes the Blanche Cup, Bubbler and Coward Springs which are good examples of mound springs and



were rated highly in a survey of the springs conducted in the early 1980s. Like all springs they had been heavily degraded by livestock grazing and more recently, unmanaged visitor pressure.

On September 5 1995 the Hon David Wotton, Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources, opened the new park which is to be given the name of Wabma Kadarbu Conservation Park - Wabma Kadarbu meaning 'snakes head' in the Arabana language.

The protection of these mound springs has to date been achieved through the cooperation of S Kidman & Co, the Arabana community and the State government. The site will continue to be managed by the Arabana community and

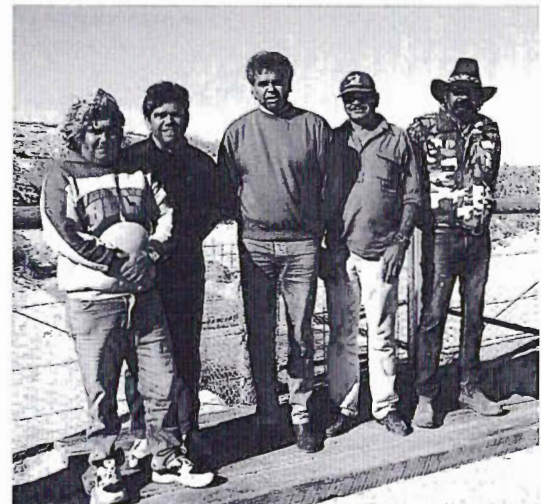
the State government to ensure sensitive management of this significant piece of land. Management and protection of the area includes fencing, interpretation, board walks, management plans and construction of roads.

Although small in area this park is an important addition to the national parks system and a milestone in terms of the protection for the Lake Eyre Basin.

*Above: Location of new park within Great Artesian Basin showing principal areas of mound spring activity.*

*Below, left: General landscape at Wabma Kadarbu Conservation Park.*

*Below, right: Representatives of the Arabana community at the opening of the new park - 1 to r - Wilfred Strangways, Joey Hull, Mervyn Dodd, Clarrie Warren, Clive Dodd*





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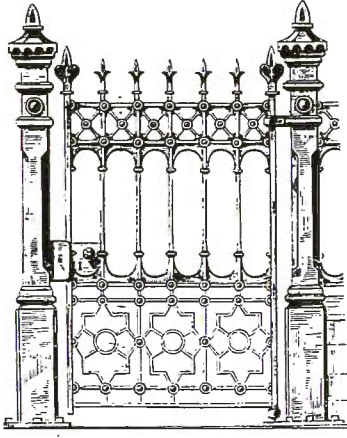


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Westside Manufacturing Pty Ltd  
372 Findon Road, Kidman Park  
Telephone 356 4206 Facsimile 356 0943

Finecast Foundry Pty Ltd  
974 Port Road, Albert Park  
Telephone 268 7144 Facsimile 268 6288



# Tax Incentive for Heritage Conservation

Are you planning to do work on a heritage-listed building?

If so, you could be eligible for a twenty cents in the dollar tax rebate.

As an incentive to heritage conservation, the Commonwealth Government is providing tax rebates for approved conservation work on heritage listed buildings and places.

Now in its second year, the scheme allows a 20% rebate to successful applicants, claimed as part of the owner's annual tax return on satisfactory completion of the work.

To find out whether your project is eligible for entry to the scheme, you need to be able to answer YES to all of the following questions.

- Is the place entered in the Register of the National Estate or the State Heritage Register, or does it lie within a State Heritage Area? YES/NO
- Do you own the property or hold a Crown Lease? YES/NO
- Is the proposed work valued at \$5,000 or more? YES/NO
- Can the work be completed within 2 years of commencement? YES/NO
- Will the work be done without other financial assistance from Commonwealth or State Governments, or a National Trust Appeal? YES/NO

In addition, the work needs to comply with prescribed conservation standards. These are explained in an Information Guide that accompanies the Application Form.

Categories of work that are eligible include:

- Maintenance and preservation  
Protective care of the fabric of the place in its existing state, and retarding deterioration
- Restoration and reconstruction  
Return of the existing fabric to a known earlier state by removing later accretions, re-assembling existing components or introducing old or new material, or repairing

• Adaptation

Modifying a place to suit proposed compatible uses, without change to culturally significant fabric - failing this, changes to be reversible or of minimal impact. Can include new work and services

• Other

For example, professional supervision fees and certain statutory requirements

Successful applicants will be issued with a Provisional Certificate detailing the eligible work and its value. It is important to note that any expenditure incurred *before* the receipt of this certificate *can not be included*.

Provided the work is completed within two years, a Final Certificate can then be applied for. The Final Certificate verifies that the work has been done in accordance with the requirements, and can then be used to claim the 20% rebate in your tax return.

Applications for the 1996 round *must be lodged by 8 July 1996*.

It is anticipated that Provisional Certificates will be issued in November 1996.

If you are planning work towards the end of 1996 which you think fits the scheme, write to:

Tax Incentive for Heritage Conservation  
Heritage Protection Section  
Department of Communications and the Arts  
GPO Box 2154  
CANBERRA ACT 2601  
or telephone Freecall 1800 064 048

**Peter Wells**  
Conservation Architect  
State Heritage Branch



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